WIL 4-2a

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | RO

Reply To: 3430 Evaluation

Date: JAN 29 1986

Subject: Insect-Caused Seedling Mortality

To: Forest Supervisor, Winema NF

This is in response to an insect detection report from the Klamath Ranger District concerning the Summit Seed Orchard and dead Shasta red fir seedlings. The feeding damage on the seedlings is characteristic of weevils. Most likely doing the damage is a species of Pissodes. The larvae are extremely difficult to identify; an identification is more certain from adult specimens. From Nancy Rose's description, we can deduce that the site preparation and planting are not the cause of a weevil buildup. What most likely happened is that the local population of these weevils was enough to cause the seedling damage. Although these weevils are not recorded as pests of Shasta red fir seedlings, it is conceivable that they would opportunistically attack seedlings. As seedlings mature, they will be less susceptible to weevil feeding. Less mortality is expected in 1986 than occurred in 1985.

To prevent future seedling mortality in high-value seed orchards or evaluation plantations, the District may consider a root dip insecticide treatment. Although not registered specifically for this application, the Furadan 4F label can be interpreted to include all western conifer seedlings for a 1 percent active Furadan clay slurry. This root dip should provide protection against all weevil feeding. Likewise, the Furadan 15G label can be interpreted to allow the use of the granules to be incorporated into the soil around each seedling. Labels for these two products are enclosed.

If you detect insect or disease problems in your plantations or seed orchard, call us immediaately so that we may identify the cause and hopefully prevent unacceptable losses.

PAUL E. BUFFAM

PAUL E. BUFFAM
Director of Forest Pest Management

Enclosures

cc:
Klamath RD (Nancy Rose)
Pete Theisen, TM
Sharon Friedman, Ochoco NF
Mike Schafer, RO, FPM

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